

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 OIC-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 301239Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2481

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, ILO, ELAB, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI COMMENTS ON ILO

REFS: (A) STATE 186432, (B) TEL AVIV 4986

1. LABATT CALLED ON DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR (GUREL) TO DISCUSS CONTENTS OF REFTEL (A) REGARDING CURRENT U.S. ASSESSMENT OF ILO. GUREL WAS SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED IN WHAT HE PERCEIVED AS RATHER NAGATIVE REAPPRAISAL OF EARLIER POSITIVE U.S. ASSESSMENT OF THE ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE, AND OF WESTERN ABILITY TO COOPERATE TOWARD SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN ILO OPERATIONS.

2. GUREL REPORTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD HOSTED ON JULY 26 AN INTERMINISTERIAL DISCUSSION AND APPRAISAL OF U.S. AND ISRAELI VIEWS OF THE ILO. PARTICIPANTS HAD AGREED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAD GROUNDS TO BE STAISFIED OVER THE PROGRESS MADE. THEREFORE, ISRAELIS FELT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT
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U.S. WOULD STAY IN ILO. HOWEVER, THIS DISCUSSION WITH

LABATT RAISED AGAIN CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY RE FUTURE PROSPECTS.

3. IN RESPONSE, LABATT SAID TONE OF MORE QUALIFIED ASSESSMENT REFLECTS THE FACT THAT U.S. CONSIDERS PROGRESS IN ILO NOT YET SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT JUDGMENT WHETHER IT COULD REMAIN IN ORGANIZATION. WE BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN HIGH LEVEL PRESSURES ON ILO AND ON MEMBERS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH U.S. TO WORK FOR CHANGES. WE ALSO HAVE A PARTICULAR PROBLEM IN THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MUST CONVINCE A SCEPTICAL CONGRESS AND THE U.S. PUBLIC THAT PROGRESS IN ILO REFORMS IS PERMANENT AND SUBSTANTIAL.

4. IN CONCLUDING FUREL MENTIONED THAT THE VISIT BY PROFESSOR UPSAL, AS ILO SECRETARY GENERAL BLANCHARD'S REPRESENTATIVE TO INVESTIGATE LABOR CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED AREAS, HAS NOW BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 12-13.
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Message Attributes

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04 MAY 2006

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